

What is claimed is:

1. A method for finding documents which relate to a portion of a temporal document, comprising:
  - (a) in response to a signal of interest at a particular time during the temporal document, identifying a portion of the temporal document for which related documents are to be found;
  - (b) selecting text associated with the portion of the temporal document identified;
  - (c) finding the related documents by use of information retrieval techniques as applied to the selected text,

wherein the related documents are selected from a collection of documents according to scores associated with the documents, said scores based on a ratio between the number of documents in the collection and, for a term in the selected text, the number of documents in the collection containing the term.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the temporal document is video or audio material.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the video material is stored on a video server.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein the selected text is determined by application of speech recognition techniques to the audio component of the portion of the temporal document identified.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein the selected text is the closed-captioned text associated with the portion of the temporal document identified.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the temporal document includes text.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the document text appearing to the user varies with time and the selected text is that portion of the temporal document identified.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the document text includes news bulletins, weather, sports scores or stock transaction or pricing information.
9. The method of claim 2, wherein the related documents are accessed through the Internet.
10. The method of claim 9, further including selecting the related documents from among a collection of documents which may be accessed through the Internet, by utilizing databases comprising information about the collection.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein a predetermined number of documents, 1000, are selected.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein evaluating documents in the collection includes accessing compressed document surrogates.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein related documents are selected from the collection by a server which is distinct from the server which receives the signal of interest.
14. A device for finding documents which relate to a portion of a temporal document, comprising:
  - (a) means for identifying a portion of the temporal document for which related documents are to be found, in response to a signal of interest at a particular time during the temporal document;
  - (b) means for selecting text associated with the portion of the temporal document identified;

(c) means for finding the related documents by use of information retrieval techniques as applied to the selected text,

wherein the related documents are selected from a collection of documents according to scores associated with the documents, said scores based on a ratio between the number of documents in the collection and, for a term in the selected text, the number of documents in the collection containing the term.

15. The device of claim 14, wherein the temporal document is video or audio material.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the video material is stored on a video server.

17. The device of claim 15, wherein the selected text is determined by application of speech recognition techniques to the audio component of the portion of the temporal document identified.

18. The device of claim 15, wherein the selected text is the closed-captioned text associated with the portion of the temporal document identified.

19. The device of claim 14, wherein the temporal document includes text.

20. The device of claim 19, wherein the document text appearing to the user varies with time and the selected text is that portion of the temporal document identified.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the document text includes news bulletins, weather, sports scores or stock transaction or pricing information.

22. The device of claim 15, wherein the related documents are accessed through the Internet.

23. The device of claim 22, further including means for selecting the related documents from among a collection of documents which may be accessed through the Internet, by utilizing databases comprising information about the collection.
24. The device of claim 23, wherein a predetermined number of documents, 1000, are selected.
25. The device of claim 23, wherein evaluating documents in the collection includes accessing compressed document surrogates.
26. The device of claim 23, wherein related documents are selected from the collection by a server which is distinct from the server which receives the signal of interest.